FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 APRIL 1987

Sudanese Coup Plot

A coup attempt set for 16 April was aborted and all plotters and perpetrators were arrested, SUNA reported citing *Al-Usbu'*. Several active and nonactive military persons were detained, the paper said, noting that the Armed Forces have been put on maximum alert. The minister of state at the Defense Ministry denied anyone in the Armed Forces was arrested, *Al-Maydan* noted.

SPLA leader John Garang placed his forces on high alert to repulse a military offensive by Sudan's Armed Forces, which began on 14 April, and to resist the government's "witch hunt" to arrest political opponents "by concocting a coup attempt that is nonexistent," the clandestine SPLA radio reported. In order to forestall the alleged coup, which was to include the assassination of government leaders and attacks on the U.S. and Libyan Embassies, the radio said Sudanese leader Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi staged "major raids" around the country for "mass detentions of alleged subversive elements."

DRA-Pakistan

The Pakistani Air Force shot down an intruding Afghan fighter aircraft near Miran Shah on 16 April, Karachi radio announced citing a statement issued by the Defense Ministry. According to the radio, the aircraft intruded 10 km into Pakistani airspace, was shot down by Pakistani planes, and fell into the mountains north of Miran Shah in Pakistan.

Kuwait-USSR

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy arrived in Kuwait on the first stop of his Middle East tour, KUNA announced. Petrovskiy stressed the "great importance" the Kremlin attaches to political dialogue with Kuwait, adding that he considers the visit to be on a "special level of political significance," KUNA reported. Expressing "deep anxiety" over the Gulf war, Petrovskiy told the agency it is "imperative to embark on tangible moves" to end the war and achieve safe and free navigation in the Gulf. The Soviet official noted that the USSR has "specific ideas" on these issues.

Israel

Israel and the FRG have begun discussions on the supply of a new and "particularly safe" nuclear power station developed in Germany, Jerusalem radio reported. In talks with the German research and technology minister, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres proposed declaring the reactor site, in the Shitva area of the Negev, an extraterritorial zone, the radio noted. According to Peres' proposal, this would remove objections to the sale of nuclear technology to Israel because the area would not be under Israeli sovereignty, the radio added.

Lebanon

An Israeli position in Sujud was hit by three katyusha rockets, Beirut radio reported, noting that Israeli helicopters flew over the Tayr Harma area. At the Shatila camp, an elderly Palestinian was killed and a child wounded when a grenade was thrown into the camp, AFP reported. Amal told the agency there had also been a clash with Palestinian fighters on 16 April. In Beirut, Army brigades opened the Franciscan crossing point to pedestrian traffic on 17 April, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front issued a statement claiming responsibility for firing rockets at the Galilee, noting it was in retaliation for recent Israeli raids in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Algeria's Cherif Messaadia, who delivered a message from President Chadli Bendjedid regarding efforts to restore Palestinian unity, Tripoli radio reported. In a departure statement, Messaadia told JANA that discussion included work toward an Algerian-libyan union within the framework of the Arab Maghreb, Tripoli television noted.

Syria

Visit to Libya — President Hafiz al-Asad is to visit Libya following his return from Moscow, WAM reported citing a Lebanese political source.

Yemeni Visitor — YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid left Damascus after a brief visit, which included a meeting with President al-Asad, Damascus radio reported.

PDRY

Yemeni and Soviet officials and experts attended a ceremony to inaugurate the first oil well in the PDRY, Aden radio announced. In a joint statement, the PDRY Ministry of Energy and Minerals and the USSR Ministry of Geology announced the discovery of good quality oil in commercial quantities, the radio reported. The USSR geology minister and deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations arrived in Aden for talks on 14 April, the radio noted.

Maghreb Affairs

Algeria — Marshal of Aviation Aleksandr Yefimov, USSR deputy defense minister, met with President Chadli Bendjedid to discuss bilateral relations, TASS reported. Yefimov and his delegation departed the same day, ending a 5-day visit, APS noted.

Mauritania — The Mauritanian head of state sent emissaries to Arab and African leaders in connection with the extension of a Moroccan defense wall toward Mauritania's northern border, according to sources cited by PANA. The Mauritanian leader also briefed the Council of Ministers on the situation, telling them that the wall and the concentration of foreign troops there "could provoke at any moment incidents which are sometimes difficult to control," Nouakchott radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio reported heavy raids by aircraft on Iranian positions, including an attack on the Kaneh sugar factory. Iranian troops liberated many strategic heights in the Sardasht operational area, IRNA reported, citing a military communique. The agency noted that Iraq made a chemical raid on the Sardasht region on 15 April, but a military spokesman denied that Iran had used chemical weapons on the south and western fronts.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd concluded a 1-day visit to France, during which he discussed the Gulf war and the possibilities of a Middle East peace initiative with French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, AFP reported.

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Further Reportage on Visit of USSR's Katushev

Economic, Technical Cooperation

LD162202 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, at the party Central Committee headquarters this morning met with a high-ranking USSR delegation led by Comrade Konstantin Fedorovich Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, which is on a friendly visit to the DRA at the invitation of the DRA Government.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Mohammad Aziz, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee; and Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union to the DRA. During the meeting views were exchanged on topics of mutual interest and further development of economic and technical cooperation between the DRA and the USSR.

USSR 'Satisfied' With Progress

LD162209 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Mohammad Aziz, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee, met today with comrade Konstantin Fedorovich Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and discussed economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

At the meeting, which was attended by the members of the high-ranking Soviet delegation, the Soviet side expressed its complete satisfaction with the progress achieved in the Afghan-Soviet cooperation projects. It spoke of the continuation of financial and technical cooperation and assistance in the development and extraction of gas, agriculture and irrigation, the energy sector, training and education, public health, expansion of [words indistinct] and strengthening of the communication system, the campaign against locusts and other agricultural pests, and mechanizing agriculture and veterinary services.

Najibullah Receives Tribal Elders in Faryab

LD170623 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT
17 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul, April 16 *Bakhtar* — Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, received the elders and representatives of the different tribes and nationalities of Shirin Tagab and Dalatabad districts of Faryab Province here today.

Touching on the achievements of national reconciliation, Najib recalled the wide-spread support which has been given to the policy of national reconciliation by the people of Afghanistan. The Afghan people have spoken highly of the policy and have [words indistinct] in accord with the Afghan traditions and Islamic principles.

In the wake of this policy, a number of opposing groups have laid their arms on the ground as well as a large number of our countrymen living abroad returned home despite the obstructionist activities of Pakistani and Iranian authorities, Najib said.

We have taken specific measures, general secretary of the PDPA CC said, for achieving national reconciliation. Now, we are looking forward for the reaction of our opponents. Our aspiration, he said, is to end bloodshed and to restore a nation-wide peace. If the opposite side [words indistinct] a peace, they will be crushed.

The elders of the both districts presented their suggestions for which appropriate action will be taken. They also pledged that they will make every efforts in restoring peace by expanding their people's regiments.

'Extremist Elements' Fire Missles at Gardeyz

LD161922 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] *Bakhtar* reports that extremist elements hostile to the peace and prosperity of our compatriots sent into mourning the citizens of Gardeyz city as a result of firing 13 ground-to-ground missiles of U.S. manufacture yesterday. As a result of this anti-Islamic and cowardly action by the extremists, four inhabitants of [name indistinct] district, Gardeyz city, including a woman and three children aged 9, 12, and 14 years, were martyred and three children were injured. Parts of two residential apartments were destroyed and a number of houses in the (Maqsud Mena) district were damaged. Also, as the result of the explosion of a mine which had been planted by extremist elements on the way to the [name indistinct] shrine in Osman Khel (?village), Sayd Karam District, Paktia Province, a bus carrying 45 pilgrims was overturned, and 13 persons including children, women, and old men, were severely injured.

The report adds that Gardeyz citizens strongly condemned this action by the extremists who, on the orders of imperialism, intend to disrupt the peaceful life of our compatriots by murder, subversion, and intimidation, and to create obstacles in the way of the peaceful policy of national reconciliation. They expressed their hatred and indignation against them.

Speaking to a *Bakhtar* reporter, a preacher of Gardeyz city, Mawlawi Alam Khan, said that the DRA revolutionary leadership has announced the policy of national reconciliation in accordance with the teaching of the sacred religion of Islam in order to cease bloodshed and fratricide and to establish peace and stability in the country and observe a unilateral cease-fire. However, the extremist elements of the opposition, hostile to our homeland and people, do not observe this humane measure but murder innocent compatriots and small children. These actions by them contravene all Islamic principles and Koranic teachings. They deserve severe punishment.

PRC Ambassador Meets With Gandhi on Border Issue

BK161542 Hong Kong AFP in English 1537 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 16 (AFP) — The Chinese ambassador to New Delhi met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Thursday amid reports that India was mobilising troops along its north-eastern border with China in response to a Chinese buildup of forces, government officials said.

The officials said that ambassador Li Lianqing had called on Mr Gandhi, but declined to give further details. [passage omitted]

PRC Intrusion Confirmed

BK161559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] It has been officially stated in New Delhi that the Indian Army has not carried out any survey in the Wang Dong area in Arunachal Pradesh. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry described as baseless a report appearing in a section of the press that the survey by the Indian Army has indicated that the Chinese may actually be on their own side of the border. He said the report has been checked with the Ministry of Defense.

The spokesman said the Government of India has never been in doubt about the alignment of the border in the area. The Chinese have established a post in Wang Dong which is south of the boundary and therefore constitutes an intrusion.

Parliament Debates Defense Commission Issue

BK161327 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Government will endeavor to pursue the inquiry ordered by the former defense minister, Mr V.P. Singh, into the alleged agreement to pay a 30 crore rupee commission to an Indian agent by the supplier in a defense deal. This was announced by the minister of state for defense, Mr Arun Singh, while replying to a special debate on the issue in the Lok Sabha today. He said the matter has been referred to the Directorate of Enforcement and to the General Board of Direct Taxes.

The Economic Intelligence Bureau is to carry out a systematic study on the modus operandi of all agents — Indian and foreign. The inquiry committee, under the chairmanship of the defense secretary, will report on the involvement of the agent in the defense deal. Mr Singh said it is not possible at present to disclose anything about the contract, the supplier, or the country of its origin, nor can the contents of the telex sent by an Indian embassy be revealed as it involves relations with a foreign government.

The minister reiterated that the government's policy is not to enter into commercial negotiations with any nongovernment agent of a foreign supplier for the purchase of defense equipment. Despite such stringent measures some instances have come to the government's notice where commission was paid by the supplier in a defense deal. In all such cases the Defense Ministry has asked the Finance Ministry to investigate.

Mr Arun Singh pointed out that in the light of the earlier policy and precedence, the former defense minister, Mr V.P. Singh, was within his rights to order an inquiry. This is purely an administrative action, but Mr V.P. Singh should not have sought publicity since it was not the first case of its kind. Taking part in the resumed discussion initiated by Mr Suresh Kurup and Mr Amal Dutta — both of the CPI-M — most of the members felt that the probe is the right step. They demanded that a house committee be set up to inquire into the matter. At the end of the minister's reply, the opposition members walked out protesting against their demand for a probe by a parliamentary committee not being accepted.

In the Rajya Sabha, the discussion on the subject has been postponed to Monday. This was announced by the chairman, Mr Venkataraman. The discussion originally slated for yesterday was postponed to day because of the debate on the Fairfax issue.

Opposition Claims Cover Up

BK161700 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Several opposition leaders have criticized the government for alleged attempts to cover up issues in the Fairfax case and the defense deal. Speaking in New Delhi today, Mr Madhu Dandavate, Mr L.K. Advani, Mr P. Opendra, and others accused the government of undermining the constitution and bypassing parliament. The speakers questioned government's sincerity in getting at the truth of these matters. They described the terms of reference of the judicial inquiry into the Fairfax issue as limited. The leaders called for generating public opinion on the situation thrown up by these events.

AFP: Textile Company Faces Tax Evasion Charges

BK160908 Hong Kong AFP in English 0843 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi, April 16 (AFP) — India's second largest company, Reliance Industries Limited, is facing charges of evading customs duty of more than 91 million dollars, Minister of State for Finance Brahm Dutt said Thursday.

Reliance, mainly involved in manufacturing textiles, is one of the companies reported to have been under investigation by the Finance Ministry when Vishwanath Pratap Singh held the portfolio. He was shifted to the Defence Ministry in January. The government has denied that Mr Singh's move was prompted by his engaging the U.S. detective agency Fairfax Group to investigate billions of dollars stashed abroad illegally by Indian individuals and companies.

Mr Dutt told the upper house of parliament that Bombay-based Reliance had been asked to explain unauthorised imports of plant machinery and alleged "misdeclaration and under-invoicing" of goods adding up to evasion of duty worth 91.5 million dollars.

The Indian Express newspaper launched a sustained campaign against alleged tax evasion and business malpractices by Reliance in March last year and its reports have led to the disclosure

of Fairfax's investigations and charges of violating the Official Secrets Act being brought against its columnist. Reliance, India's fastest growing industrial empire, directly employs 15,000 people, and 400,000 indirectly, under the leadership of the high-profile Dhirubhai Ambani, who owns the most modern textile plant in India.

Company Questioned on Imports

BK160940 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] The customs authorities have asked a leading textile mill of Bombay to explain why it should not be charged for liability to confiscation of the goods unauthorizedly imported by it.

The minister of state for finance, Mr Brahm Dutt, informed the Rajya Sabha today that a show cause notice has been issued to the company following inspection of an imported plant by the authorities. The customs allegation is that the mill evaded duty of over 119 crore rupees by underinvoicing of imported goods.

The minister said the case is under adjudication and the penalty will be decided later.

Curfew Imposed in Meerut City Following Violence

BK161608 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in Lisari Gate, Kotwali, and four other localities of Civil Lines police station area of Meerut. The state home secretary told newsmen in Lucknow today that curfew was imposed this afternoon following some violent incidents. Twelve persons have been arrested today in this connection. Additional police force has been deployed and constant vigil is being kept.

Arms Seized in Punjab; 2 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK170448 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] There has been one more arms haul in Punjab. This time it was in Kapurthala. The arms were recovered from two terrorists arrested by the police today. The arms include a sten gun, six pistols, four rifles, two revolvers, two double-barreled guns, and a large quantity of ammunition.

The two terrorists were arrested in a raid on a farm house in a nearby village. Three others managed to escape. The five terrorists are allegedly involved in killing, looting and arson in the district.

In another incident elsewhere in the state one person was shot dead by terrorists. They also looted jewelry and cash worth about 2 lakh rupees.

West Bengal Strike Paralyzes Life in Darjeeling

BK161622 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] In West Bengal, normal life in Darjeeling Hills has been paralyzed following a bundh [strike]. The 6-day bundh called by the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] from today is in protest against police firing near Kalimpong on Monday night in which four persons were killed.

Business establishments, educational institutions, and central and state government offices remained closed. Vehicular traffic was off the road. Essential services, however, were exempted from the bundh.

Our Kurseong correspondent reports that GNLF activists attacked the police control room at Kurseong shortly after midnight yesterday. They threw a bomb at the control room, injuring one Central Reserve Police Force [CRPF] jawan [personnel].

Meanwhile, the West Bengal government has requested the center to send more companies of CRPF to the state in view of the situation in the three hill subdivisions.

Permission has also been sought for opening six more police outposts in Darjeeling District.

Disclosing this to newsmen in Calcutta today, the director general of West Bengal police said that district administration has taken strict precautionary measures.

Afghan Combat Aircraft Shot Down Near Miran Shah

BK161109 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] The Pakistan Air Force aircraft shot down an intruding Kabul combat aircraft north of Miran Shah this morning. According to a press note issued by Ministry of Defense in Rawalpindi today, a fighter aircraft of the Kabul Air Force intruded into Pakistan airspace by 10 km near Miran Shah at about 0700 [0200 GMT] this morning [16 April].

The interceptor aircraft of Pakistan Air Force was ordered into the air which shot down the intruding aircraft. [sentence as heard] The debris of the aircraft was seen falling in the mountains north of Miran Shah.

Congo President Arrives for Brief Visit 15 Apr

BK151139 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The president of the Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, arrived in Karachi this afternoon for a brief stopover while on his way to Beijing.

He was received at the airport by the Sind governor, Mr Ashraf Tabbani, and the acting chief minister, Alhaj Shamsuddin.

The president of the Congo later visited the Mazar [Mausoleum] of the Qaide Azam [Mohammad Ali Jinnah] and laid a wreath there.

SRI LANKA

Terrorist Landmine Kills 6 Soldiers 16 Apr

BK161123 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] The terrorists exploded a landmine at Mannar this morning, killing four armed forces personnel. According to the Media Center in Colombo, six others who were injured have been admitted to the Anuradhapura hospital. The dead have been identified as Second Lieutenant (V.S. Perera), and Privates (N.G.P. Bimalasena), (T.D.B. Ilangasinghe), (T.B.Y. Trisitakumara).

Meanwhile, a child named Raheem is reported to have been abducted by terrorists at (Pattikarni) in Mannar today.

Voice of Tamil Eelam on Gandhi Proposal To End Crisis

BK160816 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has sought clarification from the Indian Government on the latest proposal by Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi in connection with a solution to the ethnic problem. Reports reaching us here from Colombo say that the Sri Lankan Government has asked the Indian Government to name in particular the Tamil groups that have expressed willingness to hold talks. Reports say that the Sri Lankan Government has affirmed that a proper atmosphere for the talks will be established as soon as these clarifications are obtained. It is also understood the Sri Lankan Government's steps will include a simulteneous cease-fire and a lifting the fuel ban. The government has also stated the talks will be resumed based on the proposals of 19 December 1986.

The Sri Lankan high commissioner to New Delhi, Bernard Tilakaratna, left Colombo for Delhi yesterday with the reply of the Sri Lankan Government. Special correspondent of the Voice of Tamil Eelam quoting high government sources said the Sri Lankan Government's next step will be based on the clarification by the Government of India. He further said that the Sri Lankan Government is very concerned with the clashes among the Tamil militants in Jaffna and the refusal of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to participate in talks, and that the Indian high commissioner, J.N. Dixit, handed over the latest dispatch of the Indian prime minister to President Jayewardene on last Thursday. It was expected that the Sri Lankan Government would submit the reply for the above dispatch immediately. But, a Sri Lankan Government official said, as it had to be thoroughly reviewed, an immediate response could not be given.

Voice of Tamil Eelam Cites Indian Envoy on Mediation

BK160849 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1330 GMT 7 Apr 87

[Text] The Indian high commissioner to Sri Lanka, J.N. Dixit, has said that India will continue to play its role in finding a just solution to the ethnic problem through talks. A lasting solution can be expected only if all the political parties accept the proposals for a solution to the ethnic crisis. He said this yesterday while speaking at a farewell function for a person promoted and posted as ambassador to Madagascar. Giving details about the historic links between the two countries, the Indian high commissioner said we know that workers from Tamil Nadu were brought here half a century ago, but even during the time of the ancient kings skilled workers came to Sri Lanka.

As for the Sri Lankan Labor Congress, being a powerful organization representing those of Indian origin, it is performing its political work well, with independent and unique policies. He said: Minister Thondaman [Sri Lankan rural industries minister] who spoke before me, put forward some important points. I would like to note only two points here. Having accepted the independence and [words indistinct] of Sri Lanka, we should fully accept that Sri Lanka is a [word indistinct]. At the same time my basic aim is to find a lasting solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka today, through peace talks and not through violent activities. A just solution is essential. All the political parties in Sri Lanka should accept a formula, otherwise no lasting solution can be expected.

Majlis Speaker Suggests Hostages for Property Deal

PM151421 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Apr 87 pp 3-14

[Exclusive interview with Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent from *Keyhan Hava'i* (airmail edition published for Iranians living abroad); date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Society is still experiencing a lack of laws, and some cases officials have declared laws null and void. What do you think are the reasons for the Majlis' shortcomings in this field? Why are the people not told about these shortcomings?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What are laws are you talking about in particular?

[Correspondent] The special circumstances that we face, especially in wartime, require special laws. In this regard the Majlis has taken some actions, such as the law that increases the punishment for hoarders, but some shortcomings are still felt.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not agree with you in the sense that I do not feel our problem to be a lack of law. We have some problems passing laws that fit the present time. Of course, the imam has paved the way for us.

You see, Islam has always been this way: Even during the days of the Prophet it was the same. Islam has a series of perpetual and eternal laws which are the basis of our religious beliefs and the basis of our laws. There are always conditions when a law must have exceptions, when it cannot be implemented under certain circumstances because something has to be added to it or something taken out. [passage omitted]

Conditions are not always equal, and different times require different laws. Sometimes there are laws that were not relevant during those past times, and sometimes the laws change. The imam has opened the way on this issue and has said that if two-thirds of the Majlis vote on a law as a matter of temporary emergency there is no need for a vote from the Council of Guardians.

As you know, the Council of Guardians has two legal functions. One is to safeguard religious principles in the laws so that they are not ignored; the other is to safeguard the Constitution. Therefore, any law that is urgent and does not violate religious principles or the Constitution, does not need the approval of the Council of Guardians.

There are some cases when we cannot get a two-thirds majority, meaning that two-thirds of the Majlis deputies do not accept a bill as urgent and extraordinary. This is where we have the problem you mention. The problem arises when there is no majority vote — which can happen when a bill is urgent but there is no majority. Of course, getting a two-thirds vote is harder.

Sometimes the Council of Guardians does not accept our bills. The laws of Islam are not accidental. One of the problems we have in our society, even among the clerics whom we accept as wise, is that the laws are not accidental and there are differences of opinion. The people in the Majlis also have differences of opinion, just as in other places. There is no consensus in the Council of Guardians either. There are six of these gentlemen: Sometimes three of them vote the same way and sometimes they cannot secure a consensus and cannot win a vote. These things happen, and we are left without laws; but these are the exceptions. The ordinary trend of our work does not create problems for us. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] It seems that the people should be informed about some of the shortcomings that prevent laws being passed, which actually turn into differences among officials. Do you not feel that this should be so?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You mean reveal things? No. This would cause differences. Of course the people are informed. The issues are brought up in the Majlis. When a bill is discussed, people comment on it so it becomes clear who is following which direction. The groups and cliques that exist in the Majlis reveal themselves in that forum. Similarly, the differences that exist between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians become clear: The Majlis gives its opinion, and then it is made clear; the newspapers print it; the radio and television talk about it; then the bill goes to the Council of Guardians, is rejected, and comes back to the Majlis, and again the news is broadcast. When it is amended again in the Majlis, the issue becomes clear. It is not possible for a bill to pass through the Majlis without the various directions in the Majlis becoming clear or the people becoming informed. Now, if someone does not read the newspapers or if they do not listen to the radio, that is an exception. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Could the press also have a role in this issue?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The press could also disseminate and clarify these statements. Another good forum is the Friday prayers, where issues are revealed.

[Correspondent] Our people face some problems; they are aware of them. Even though our officials have placed themselves at the disposal of the people completely, many of these problems are left unresolved. Why?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not feel that these problems exist because of lawlessness, because now we really do have a path. First of all, on the average perhaps 90 or 95 percent of us have no problems at all with the Council of Guardians or anyone else. That leaves the 10 percent who do have problems. Discounting this 10 percent, the way is still open for our two-thirds majority.

If an issue is of real social importance, we can solve it through the two-thirds majority and we can get a vote. I feel other issues and things tend to get involved. The issues are the shortages, the war, the problems that have arisen because of the revolution, the fact that our officials and managers are very young, the people's high expectations of the revolution, and their feeling that issues have to be solved all at once. This is itself a sort of misinformation, which causes people to think that a problem with centuries-old roots can be solved quickly. There are plots being hatched

against us, and all means are effective. The fact that there are not enough laws is just one issue.

[Correspondent] Do you think that the Third Majlis will be more active than the Second Majlis?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I am not so sure that that will be the case.

[Correspondent] But the trend in society calls for a more active and a stronger Majlis.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I think the Majlis is one of the places that has carried out its duties well. Those who say, for example, that we do not have enough laws must realize, if they are right, that a law entails a lot of expert work and research that must be discussed in the government and in the judicial system. It is not right for us to present plans or laws. They have to bring laws to us and we have to pass them. The Majlis deputies quite prepared. When the ministers bring something and say that it is urgent, the deputies accept its urgency, pass the bill in a couple of days, and send it back to the government.

The deputies are prepared to vote on social issues. Of course, the Majlis has its own limitations too. There are things that, because of the war, cannot be discussed at the microphone in the Majlis. One problem we have that other world parliaments do not have is that our microphones are open and everything we say is public. That is not the case anywhere else in the world — that deputies can broadcast everything directly through the microphones during a war. Here there is not even the opportunity for someone to say something, to think it over, and, if he makes a mistake, to correct it. As we are talking our words go out live on the air, and this limits us. All in all the morale in the Majlis is good.

[Correspondent] During the few years since the revolution, our foreign policy has seen some exaggerations. As we have a lot of resources and must pay attention to governments as well as peoples, has there so far been a special policy in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What kind of exaggerations?

[Correspondent] At the beginning of the revolution we paid more attention to liberation organizations and popular movements. We paid less attention to governments, but later the governments got more attention. The Lebanese experience showed us we could have had proper relations with governments alongside our relations with the people.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You have not given a good example. How could we have had relations with the government in Lebanon?

[Correspondent] We act more through the Syrian channel there.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Because you have brought this up, I feel I must give some explanations.

The revolution's policy from the beginning has always been one of paying attention to the people. This is something that we raised and insisted on, and we still stand by this principle. This means that if, in any country, the government is struggling against its own people, we cannot be friendly toward that government or cooperate with it. This are no exceptions.

Of course, simply having relations with a government or superficial comings and goings does not mean cooperation. Of course, we have dealings with governments and organizations throughout the world and we have to talk about some issues. We have to get their opinion and give our own views. These issues exist, such as trade and commerce. There is no country in the world that has everything itself. Because of our past dependence, we need these relations and contacts, perhaps more than many other countries in the world.

Of course, we have never rejected the principle of having relations with governments, except for some governments such as those in Israel and South Africa whose nature is aggressive. Or the present government of Afghanistan, whose nature is aggressive and which continues its existence with the help of the Russians. We can have relations with other governments.

Even in the case of the United States, we supplied a condition which is a tough one. We said that it must not engage in mischeif or behave in an evil way. As it is a power that had great influence in Iran before and is bothering us now, we are cautious and defensive, because it would be dangerous if we were to have relations with it again. When we are sure there is no threat from the United States against the basis of our revolution, we can have ordinary relations.

Therefore, if you are talking about simple, basic relations, we have never rejected them. But the people have more meaning for us. The freedom movements that you talked about, especially Islamic movements, are very important to us. We have always supported them from the beginning, and we shall continue to do so.

You see that in Tunis they are closing our embassy on these charges. In Egypt they are crushing their own people using the same excuse, because they support Iran. The same goes for the Persian Gulf countries. In Lebanon there is no government in the true meaning of the word. There, everyone has an army and a group for himself. We also have a presence there at a satisfactory level.

In general, I believe there have been no exaggerations in foreign policy and its trend has been a good one. Now, if you have an example of our abandoning a people or losing touch with the people to replace that relationship with a governmental one, despite the will of the people, I want you to tell me. Do you know of such an example?

[Correspondent] Our economic relations with the world have to be in line with the revolution. At present, it can be seen that some of our economic relations are not in line with the revolution's cultural or ideological principles. For example, our relations with Turkey and Germany, which fight against our revolution and against Islam in various ways. It seems that in confronting these countries, instead of stressing on revolution's cultural issues alongside our economic issues, in reality our economic needs have caused us to have widespread commercial relations.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Suppose our needs had dragged us into this — which is not the case: It would be logical. We cannot ignore the country's needs under these conditions when we are at war and with the limitations that we have in the world.

For example, raw materials have to be provided for a factory. Do we have the freedom of action to provide this from a country that is cooperating with us ideologically and culturally? Is there such a country in the world at present? So our needs could dictate some things, but what is important for us is to keep in mind our priorities despite the limitations — which, incidentally, we have done.

Look, Turkey is a country that is our neighbor. If we can have better relations with our neighbor, then this is something positive. We are close to one another. Something we buy from them today is in our factory 2 days from now. Then too, the people of Turkey are Muslims. If we do not complete this deal with Turkey, we may do it with Brazil or Argentina. What advantage do Argentina or Brazil have over Turkey?

Let us not even mention those which are even worse, like Britain, the United States, or France, which are hostile to us and are arming Iraq. So if we are to buy something on equal terms and we have a choice of two countries, then Turkey is better. In addition to this, Turkey buys oil from us. At present, we have limitations with regard to the sale of oil. Our deals with Turkey are mostly barter agreements. For example, we sell 1 billion [currency not specified] in oil and in exchange we buy goods. Of course, German goods might be better but, because of the principles you have mentioned, you can see we must favor Turkey.

[Correspondent] What about giving priority to African and Asian countries over European nations?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In fact, we do give these priority, but the African countries have nothing to sell. We take this or that African country and we give them oil on credit, and several months later we buy timber from them when we could buy better quality timber from countries like Sweden, the Netherlands, and others. We buy sugar from Nicaragua because it is a revolutionary country and we want to support them, and that is why we do not buy sugar from other places.

We observe these priorities in our economic policy as much as possible. You used Germany as an example. Well, if we forget about Germany we have to replace it with France. Is France better than Germany? Is England better than Germany? During this time Germany's behavior toward the revolution has even been better than other countries'. The day that the West imposed economic sanctions on us, Germany did not enter the adventure like the others.

Altogether, it is not that we have ignored our own principles. Of course, conditions in the world, the war, urgencies, necessities, and so on impose some limitations on us — which means we do not always have the power to choose. I believe our principles are obeyed, but in some cases we may be limited and we may have to forgo some of these principles.

[Correspondent] Despite all the United States' loss of face, Washington is still hopeful with regard to one aspect of the revolution: Its wish to sully image of the Islamic revolution, keeping in mind its values and principles. How successful do you think the West has been in using its propaganda machine to sully the image of the revolution by taking advantage of U.S. contacts with Iran? They presented this effort as something ordinary, and alongside it they presented a picture of weakness on our part vis-a-vis the Zionists.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What you mention as the Americans' goal is correct. I have no doubt the Americans were thinking of other things in addition to the real issue, which was to break the ice and establish some kind of contact with us. They wanted to separate us from our justified slogans — our anti-imperialist, anticolonialist, and antiaggressor slogans. They wanted to tell the world that we are not faithful to these slogans.

They were thinking to themselves that, in any case, issues would become clear at any one time. They even wanted to sully the war and to say the Iranian victory was due not to the power of belief but to equipment and arms. Perhaps they wanted to make us dependent again in one way or another because they saw we were independent, standing on our own feet and fighting a war. Perhaps they thought one day they could use that as a weapon and force us to accept an imposed peace. They had other aims too.

The question is: How successful were they? To my mind, they were not successful. It was even a defeat for them — other than for those who were looking for an excuse against us. They closed their eyes to the truth, even to what was being broadcast by the Western media. We were careful about these issues. From the beginning we moved in such a way that, whenever we saw some U.S. mischief, we tried to retain the power to unveil the facts, and we also had the power of propaganda.

Because we were careful, we did not allow that power to fall into their hands. First of all, we were successful in the sense that we used to supply some of our needs through arms dealers, and we managed to secure those needs. This was not something that caused us to lose face. From the first day the whole world knew our arsenal was Western and American. Our planes, radar systems, rockets, and cannons, and many of our tanks are Western. Everyone knows a country at our level of progress does not have the power to provide these things itself. Nor is it possible for a country like ours — which is struggling against both superpowers — to replace one military system and continue to equip and complete it. No one can ask us why we bought parts for our F-14's, Hawk missiles, or D-Sport radars, and so on. In each case, billions of dollars had been spent on these systems and they were needed for our defense. We have to buy these from any regime or government. This is logical, and the revolution's position and its defense dictate this. We have never denied this. You have probably heard our officials say dozens of times we had to drag these things out of Westerners, arms dealers, and Western companies.

Sometimes we use middlemen, sometimes not. Sometimes it is cheaper, sometimes it is more expensive. We have gone our own way — the way we followed before.

In Lebanon they wanted to spread the word that we were involved in kidnapping there. Again we stressed we have only an ideological influence there and we are using our ideological influence. It is not a shameful thing in the world for one country to have influence over a revolutionary movement taking place in another country. We even claim many revolutionary movements in other countries respect us. Forget Lebanon. There may be movements in India or Africa or even Europe of which we ask favors. So our logic was obvious there too.

The Americans lost even more there. This means that they lost in every conceivable area. Things were discovered that were very unpleasant for the Americans. They could have implanted the idea in our people that it made no sense for us not to buy weapons firsthand but to go to second or third parties — which would cost our people more. That was not a bad experience either. The Americans showed that they are vile people. Even in a $30 or $40 million deal the American cheated. This is what it cost at an overpriced rate. The real value was $10-$15 million.

They gave us some 2,000 TOW missiles, and it seems that the last price quoted was a little over $5,000 — meaning the total cost would come to around $10 million. They also gave us a few thousand small and large spare parts for Hawk missiles — around 200 or so types, with several of each. Each of these things has a clear price tag, and we know the price of each piece. But because they have to be collected from here and there, it is possible their price may go up or down.

All in all, they delivered these items and then doubled or trebled the price. Of course, in the middle of the deal we found out that they were overcharging, so we held back $14-$14.5 million. This way the price came down a little and came closer to the real value.

Even in such a small deal, the Americans did not wait to start overcharging. From the beginning they overcharged and messed about. According to what they themselves said, they took this money and gave it to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries; that was another dirty trick. They knew we would not be happy if money from this went to the contras.

In addition, they showed their weakness insofar as a power like the United States needed to find a few million dollars in such a way — only to spend it on another dirty deal.

Very sneakily they tied Israel into this in order to say we had dealings with Israel. For the past 4 or 5 years they have tried very hard to say that we buy weapons from Israel. They have not been able to prove one case. Here they engaged in mischief to prove their case. Of course, we lost in this case, and we admit we lost, but now the world knows that we did not know. This is clear from the reports of the Americans themselves in their speeches, their statements, and other things. The fact that it was a trick is quite obvious.

How could it be that they shipped the TOW missiles from the United States to Israel and then to Iran? First of all, they could have shipped them straight to Iran. Second, they could have shipped them from places such as Spain, Portyugal, Ireland — just as the recent plane came from Ireland — Oman, Egypt, or Turkey. They have bases and a presence in all these countries. Then they could have taken these missiles from places like Turkey, Spain, or West Germany: They could have given them to us and then replaced them in the other countries.

Of course, once we found out Israel was somehow involved, we prevented the weapons from being unloaded at the airport and we ordered the shipment to be taken back. They secretly involved Israel in this out of mischief and trickery. This is something that the world has understood. Now, if someone wants to close his ears, it is his fault.

All in all, the U.S. weaknesses have become clear. The lack of cohesive leadership in the United States has become clear and their problems have become known. It is clear the United States needs the Islamic revolution. The Americans' weaknesses in Lebanon are clear. They have been repeating for many years their slogan that they will not give bribes for hostages, yet is become clear they are lying and they have offered bribes. They were telling Britain and France and others not to give bribes, yet they gave bribes themselves.

Of course, they had given bribes before. In the case of the TWA airliner, they freed around 1,000 prisoners. I myself intervened in that case. So they had given bribes once before. Everything that was revealed in this matter proved to be in our interest. We followed a very conventional path, and on this occasion we did nothing that we had not done in the past 7 years. Each time we bought arms from an arms dealer who could be a smuggler, a CIA agent, or a corrupt capitalist. Naturally, we had to supply our needs from some source.

Even right now we are willing to help toward the release of the hostages. We have no responsibilities in Lebanon, but we are willing to help so that even one person can be freed. We do not have to do anything for the United States in Lebanon but, because it is a humane act, we are willing.

Our logic is very clear. We are saying: Fine. If you expect us to help, that is all right, even though you are doing evil things against us. Give back our property and the money you have taken and are holding. This is not buying and selling. This is an instance in which you have taken money and are now preventing its return to Iran. If this property is returned to Iran, it will show that you ahve lessened our hostility. If you show us that, we in turn will help you in Lebanon. The United States cannot tell us that we ourselves are holding hostages.

A new subject that has been broached now is that those people who take hostages are our friends. Very well, let us assume they are our friends. Many of them are our friends. Of course, we do not know them, but as they listen to us, perhaps there is reason to believe they are our friends. The United States is now saying it has no influence among the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. The hypocrites have offices in the United States, collect funds, stage demonstrations, and give interviews to that country's newspapers, radio, and television. Therefore, they are responsible for the acts of terror the hypocrites commit in Iran. Do they not commit acts of violence in Iran? They hijack airplanes, they steal, they terrorize, and they destroy. Do they not have offices and clubs in the United States? Do they not have offices, newspapers,

and radio stations in France? The United States knows that they do.

Therefore, we have to place all the responsibility on the shoulders of the United States and we say directly that the United States is committing these acts of terror. If they used their influence and stopped these people, then they might expect us to stop the groups in Lebanon. If one day it is decided that no government should support a terrorist group, then they will have the right to ask others.

Of course, our difference with them is that we are friends with a people in Lebanon who are among the most innocent and downtrodden. They are fighting against Israel to liberate their country. But the Americans are friends with a bunch of thieves, fugitive capitalists, and spies who have fled their country and are engaged in acts of terror in foreign lands.

[Correspondent] Many people believe the Tower Report was prepared by Zionists to inflate Israel's role in the whole affair. On the other hand, the manner in which the report was publicized indicates that the United States wants to write the history of this report in the way it wants. Fortunately, we have heard that a group, supervised by you, is busy translating the Tower Report. Could you please give some details about this matter.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What you are saying is right. As far as I have read, it says the Tower Commission had the duty to write this part of history in such a way to minimize the Americans' losses. Of course, everyone knows they cannot extinguish those losses altogether, because their hands are tied. This means they could not ignore all the issues because some of them have become public.

In addition to this, we were on the other side of the coin, and we have documents they do not have. We have tapes they do not have, and perhaps one day they will be released with the voices of the people involved intact — plus the fact that they talk more than us. We have even stronger documents.

The friction that exists in the United States between the two groups has caused many people to say things, and in this way many things have become clear. So the Americans had their hands tied. The Tower Report's mission was to embellish history, and it has done that to a certain extent. It has exaggerated Israel's role in the affair and has acquitted Reagan and the White House, but it has still left many things unclear. Despite this, the things it had to admit did more harm than good to the United States.

Nearly everything we claimed against the Americans has been confirmed — some of it clearly, and some not so clearly, Of course, they have not provided answers to many things. One of the questions left unanswered is this: Why did they enter Iran on an Irish passport? These are questions the Americans must answer. They want the issue to be portrayed in such a way as to make it seem that we were expecting that delegation. If that was correct, then why the Irish passport? This is one question they will not answer. Why the unmarked plane? They have no answer to this one either. They say: The Iranians told us not to enter as Americans but to enter under another name. Well, why did we say that? It seems we were at a stage when we were unwilling to talk to the United States, especially officially. How can it be possible at that stage they would bring a gift from the U.S. President himself for Iranian officials? They do not answer these questions, and they do not even get close to the issue.

They do not say why they took the weapons to Israel and then brought them to Iran. Why did they not say there was an Israeli official with them? There are many things that are left unanswered. American journalists claim that there is freedom in their country and they can write whatever they want: Why do even they not ask these questions? Why were we overcharged? They do not even discuss this.

A government that wanted to become friends with us should have secured our trust first. Then why did they charge $10,000 for an item that was worth $5,000? All right, they were making a first approach: Then why did they send the Bible? The Bible indicated there was mistrust on our side that they wanted to eradicate.

We have said they came uninvited. This was true. We have said no one met them here, and this was true. They say vaguely that Iranian officials met with them. Why not name names? For example, if they say they met with the deputy prime minister, who was this deputy prime minister who met them? There are many such questions that are left unanswered.

They said they wanted to talk about Afghanistan. Our officials told them we are not ready to talk about Afghanistan with them. They should not vilify the Afghan movement. This is something that is not in their interest. They can pull out, yet it will still be victorious. In addition, the Afghans' needs are not such that they need the United States. Whatever they need, Iran can give them. The weapons they use are not jet fighters. They use rifles and RPG-7's, which we have. Why do you bring yourselves to such a level in order to ruin a movement?

There are many other issues which I cannot recall. The Americans have failed in their effort to rewrite this story. Perhaps the report will be analyzed later and its weak points revealed, and that will be a new disgrace for the Tower Commission. In the end it proved unable to answer the questions in the American people's minds.

I must add here that we have told our friends, who were well enough informed on the issue to write about the matter clearly and correctly. We want them to write about the events from the beginning, using existing documents and tapes, so that history will not be cheated. This way the American people can also understand many things. Here I must add that they have many media channels at their disposal and they can trick the people to a certain extent.

[Correspondent] How long will it take for the Islamic Republic to publish this report?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] If they have the time, it should not take too long. [sentence as published]

[Correspondent] Is this an independent report or is it an addendum to the Tower Report?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is not an addendum to the Tower Report. There are in fact two tasks: One is to translate the Tower Report and publish it, which we will do. The other is to write this story ourselves, because many things which need separate discussion have not been mentioned. So we have to write the story and then translate what the Americans have written.

[Correspondent] Before you entered into the events that in effect created chaos within the White House, had you informed the imam about all this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, of course. In general, we try to inform the imam about all important issues.

[Correspondent] A student once wrote and told you that we should perhaps stage a sort of exhibition about the McFarlane affair. You wrote in the margin: "When the time is right, I agree. There are other things as well." What are these "other things"?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, that is the case. Whenever they saw that the issue was not being pursued by us, they sent a gift. Sometimes it was a Bible, sometimes a Colt revolver, sometimes a cake. Sometimes it was other things we have not yet talked about.

Once they gave us a map — it seemed as if they wanted to give us confidential information. On the map they had pointed out where on the borders the Soviet troops were stationed, and they had drawn arrows to tell us, for example, that Soviet troops would enter from here and this is where they would want to go. They had defined the lines of attack and the forces that were to stage the attack.

[Correspondent] Why did they give us this information?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] They wanted to tell us we are endangered by the Soviets and that is why we need the United States. The things they have sent to us could make a little collection in a small exhibition. Of course, these gifts never reached our hands. Every time they said they had gifts for us, we said we would not accept them, and that is why they are still in the hands of the middlemen.

[Correspondent] Did they have a request with regard to Afghanistan to which Iran gave a negative reply?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] They said they were willing to help Afghanistan through us.

[Correspondent] What kind of help? Stinger missiles?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It did not reach that stage. We did not give them the chance to discuss the issue. They were saying they were ready to help the Mujahidin through us, and we were not ready at all to talk about this. This is a matter for the Afghans themselves. We have even condemned Afghans who have gone to the United States.

[Correspondent] Despite both sides' propaganda, the Reykjavik summit reached some sort of agreement with regard to Middle East issues. Is it possible to have a superpower agreement for Iraq, the way it was accomplished in Lebanon?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] From what the Russians are saying we understand that one of the things agreed on is the issue of Iran. During "Irangate" the Russians were claiming that the Americans had tricked them, so it seems that there was something there. Of course, we cannot be sure any agreements were reached.

One thing that is sure and certain is that neither the Russians, nor the Americans, nor the reactionaries, nor the Zionists are prepared to see Iraq lose this war to Iran. On this most important issue they all agree, even though it may not take the form of an agreement — it may not be on paper.

They all agree we should not win. This could be secured in two forms: one, that we lose — which they are not taking very seriously. Or there could be a war of sorts, with a halfway peace and a cease-fire. Then we would have fire under the ashes and would always have our hands full, there would always be an arms race to prevent us from having peace with our neighbors, and there would never be unity between the peoples of Iran and Iraq. These things are all linked, and there is no need to put them on paper.

[Correspondent] What do you think about the recent international efforts to change the leadership in Iraq? It seems that the Russians are insisting on Saddam's remaining in power. Is this nothing more than the Russians' fear that Moscow will have no hand in Iraq's future?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] All in all, what is important for the world is that an Iraqi defeat should not be considered a military victory for the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is the most basic element in their movement.

They could make some changes inside Iraq which would make it unnecessary for the war to be continued. In that case one of our demands, which is the removal of the Ba'th Party, would be met. Later there would be discussions on the Mojahedin, war damages, and Iraqi war refugees.

At present both East and West have problems, because Saddam is bribing both East and West. Finding a replacement for Saddam who would bribe both East and West will not be easy.

Naturally, each of them will try to make an effort to secure a suitable element instead of Saddam. If the United States can reduce Soviet influence, it will have achieved a major victory; and if the Russians can get the Americans involved in Iraq, they will have achieved a bonus point. In any case, they believe they can meet our demands through an element that will be in their favor. Naturally everyone believes that Saddam cannot remain.

[Correspondent] Iran's concern for its citizens is not limited to inviting them back into the country. It is essential to defend the rights of Iranians who, for many reasons, live abroad and are confronted by foreign societies — so that the Iranians do not feel lonely, alone, without support, and cut off from their people. What basic steps have been taken in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have ordered our missions abroad to defend the rights of Iranians who live abroad; this is their duty.

The only thing is that those who are against this revolution consider themselves foreigners and do not go to our embassies. If anyone has any demands that are not antinational, our missions will support them. They could be involved in court proceedings, they could have administrative problems, they could be demanding their rights, or they could have other problems Of course, the people who are our enemies, who spy and cause mischief, cannot expect to get help.

[Correspondent] They make up a minority group. Many of our doctors who were owed money abroad claimed their rights were being violated in those countries, and they got no help from the government.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our missions have to support them. If they come home, we will support them. Some of them are only abroad to make a living. They are not being very kind to their country. While their country and their people need them, they want to stay abroad for financial reasons and in order to escape wartime conditions. Despite this, we have told our missions to support them, because we cannot support them directly from here. This can only be done from the missions.

[Correspondent] It seem that the government is doing something about the Kuwaitis' expulsion of Iranian workers.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Kuwait engages in mischief and is crushing the people systematically. Most of the people the Kuwaitis are struggling against right now are either Iraqi, Lebanese, or Kuwaiti. Kuwait crushes [word illegible].

[Correspondent] Thank you for your time.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD171305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Simultaneous with the great dispatch of the Sahib al-Zaman Corps, our country's Muslim nation -- chanting the slogan "War, war, till victory" at the Friday prayer venues -- observed this Muhammadan rite today. In Tehran, too, our God-seeking, pious people, in Tehran University and the surrounding thoroughfares, held the religious-political Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his prayers sermons marking forthcoming army day, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, paid tribute to the self-sacrifices and self-immolations of army personnel during the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran. Referring to only a few of the intrepid deeds and acts of heroism by the Armed Forces during the various war operations, he said: The Americans never imagined they would invest in any army that would one day threaten the interests of the United States and arrogance in the region, and this stems from the power of God Almighty.

The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council added: We will make use of every opportunity to burden the back of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime until that party gives in to right and the Iraqi people become masters of their destiny.

Referring to the manner in which the Iraqi Kurdish fighting forces are cooperating with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the attention being paid by the responsible IRI officials to the people of Iranian Kurdistan and the lack of interest paid by the Iraqi Zionist regime in the people of Iraqi Kurdistan he said: Thanks to their own observations, the Iraqi Kurds have placed their trust in the IRI and during the past few years have clearly come to realize the IRI does not support wrong-doing and aggression. Iraqi Kurds are therefore, sincerely collaborating with our forces on Iraqi soil in the fight against Saddam's regime.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly also referred to the recent plot of arrogance and its minions in the region aimed at dragging U.S. and Soviet forces into the Persian Gulf and, expressing regret for the invitation by the Kuwaiti Government, said: The correct and simple way for guaranteeing the security of shipping in the Persian Gulf does not lie in opening the way for superpowers into the region. The simple way lies in what we have often alluded to, i.e., barring the way of the Iraqi regime's moves and wicked deeds in striking at commercial shipping. The correct way lies in the fact that the USSR should tell its lackey, i.e., Saddam, not to strike at shipping; that France should refrain from supplying Iraq with Exocet missiles; or that the Kuwaiti Government itself should warn Iraq that if that regime strikes at oil tankers, it would be deprived of the right of using Kuwaiti ports or airspace in the war. Then we too will guarantee the security of Kuwaiti ships or those of the Saudi government.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly added: These people tell lies. These people who are terrified of Islam and the Islamic movement are seeking a pretext to obstruct the path of the Islamic movement.

The agents of arrogance indeed harbor the intention of hitting two birds with one stone, i.e., both to fight the Islamic Republic and to strive to stabilize Israeli sovereignty in the region. Unfortunately, they have put pressure on the region's progressive countries — particularly Syria, Libya in Chad, and Lebanon — in order to undermine the serious fight against the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Warning the inhabitants of the region against the schemes of arrogance which aim to foment crisis in the Persian Gulf, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council said: I hope the agents of arrogance will not perpetrate such a foolish deed, as it will be much sweeter for us when we are directly at war with a country such as the United States or Israel rather than against such a duped country as Iraq.

The Kuwaiti Government, too, which invites the United States and the USSR to come to the Persian Gulf should rest assured that the Kuwaiti people and the Muslim peoples of the region shall never forgive the Kuwaiti Government for its wrongdoing.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani rebutted the Iraqi Zionist regime's claim with regard to Iran's use of chemical weapons in the war and added: We have not guaranteed not to retaliate in a similar fashion to the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons forever, but presently we have no need to resort to such weapons.

Khamene'i Praises Struggle of Lebanese Hizballah

LD161224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] During a meeting with families of martyrs and combatants of the Islamic resistance of Lebanon, who have come to Iran at the invitation of the Martyr's Foundation, and while referring to the self-sacrifice of the Lebanese faithful in the fight against superpower plots, President Khamene'i called the defeat of anti-Islamic forces in Lebanon a result of the life-giving force Islamic belief by the Muslim revolutionaries of Lebanon.

Describing the struggles of the Muslim people of Iran before the victory of the revolution against the dictatorial regime, which was supported by the superpowers, and after the victory of the Islamic revolution against world plots, the president stressed: By relying on Islamic ideals, we are extremely hopeful of the bright future of our struggles.

Praising the struggles of the Lebanese Hizballah and other Muslim revolutionaries, the president said: It is our pious brothers who have risen against oppression. This is the true meaning of the words jihad for God. A jihad for God is definitely victorous. That is why we are very hopeful for the future of Lebanon. We believe that our brothers in Lebanon will achieve decisive results.

The president called the jihad for Palestine and the fight against the occupiers of Palestine a religious duty for all Muslims. He said: If Muslim nations, especially those Muslim nations near occupied Palestine, use the method of Lebanese youths in the south [of Lebanon] and Al-Biqa' as a model for struggle, and give their lives and properties for the issue of Palestine, no doubt the occupiers would not be able to continue their expansionism and existence.

Stressing the point that our nation will not tolerate the existence of Israel, he concluded, saying: No doubt one of our principle issues is the struggle against the usurping existence of Israel.

Ayatollah Montazeri Meets With Interior Minister

LD161226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, yesterday Minister of Interior Mohtashemi, accompanied by deputy ministers and governors general from all over the country, met with the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom. In the meeting, the interior minister first made a speech about the services and endeavors of governors general, especially in connection with the imposed war.

Then the deputy leader, expressing his thanks and gratitude to the interior minister and esteemed governors general who are serving the oppressed people throughout the country, especially in the bombed regions, quoted passages from the injunctions of His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him, to Malik Ashtar [who was appointed by 'Ali as the first governor of Egypt, but who died before assuming his responsibilities]. He said: I urge you gentlemen to read those injunctions, pay attention to their contents, and try to implement them in society.

He added: A governor general is the coordinator of all the departments, organizations, and bodies in the region. Therefore, sometimes you should try to inspect those centers without advance notice and familiarize yourselves with their activities. Although you have a lot of work to do, you should not be content to sit in your offices and wait for the people to come to you. Sometimes, you should go to small towns and villages and try to solve people's problems as well as you can.

You should try to attract cultural, medical, and welfare facilities to villages and production centers so that the attractions of city-dwelling are eliminated and the number of consumers is not increased in the country. [as heard] You should try to strengthen the production centers. God willing, the beloved people should also make every effort so that we can achieve self-sufficiency as soon as possible.

He added: Be decisive in your work and solve the problems of the area under your jurisdiction with intelligence. You should not get in touch with the capital for every minor issue, which delays people's work. Iran is twice the size of France, while the population of France is nearly twice that of Iran. [as heard] Yet, they export agricultural products while we have to import them. It is a source of shame and disgrace for Islamic Iran to import agricultural products, while in the past this country was an exporter of agricultural products. With the endeavors of farmers we should reduce imports of agricultural products.

He added: During future elections, the governors general and governors should be very careful and maintain their impartiality. Even if you have a certain point of view, you should leave the people free in the elections and you should not impose your thoughts in the elections. The people are your assets and the assets of Islam. You should try to win their satisfaction as much as possible.

The deputy leader graciously said: Under the present conditions, the issue of the war should be placed before all others. More attention should be paid to forces and equipment than to slogans. You should train the people in various parts of the country. After grading and examining them, you should send trained forces to the fronts, so that, God willing, you can achieve final victory and eliminate the evil of the 'Aflaqi-Saddamists from both the Iranian and the Iraqi nations.

At the end, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for the victory of the fighters of Islam and the health and longevity of the imam, may his lofty shadow continue.

Commerce Minister Confers With Soviet Envoy

LD161648 Tehran IRNA in English 1519 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA — The Soviet ambassador to Tehran Vil Boldyrev conferred with Minister of Commerce Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, here Thursday, on expansion of mutual trade relations, increase in the level of goods exchanges as well as other forms of economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union.

The Iranian Minister, describing the existence of transportation facilities across the long common Iran-Soviet border as an advantage for expansion of bilateral trade ties, said that with the establishment of complete trade security in the Persian Gulf, foreign trade would get a further boost in the region.

The security of the Persian Gulf is the responsibility of the littoral states, emphasised the minister, adding that the eventual victory of the Muslim combatants of Iran at the war fronts would not only eliminate the root of aggression but also restore peace and security in the region.

It should be recalled that an important economic protocol was inked between Tehran and Moscow in December, 1986. The protocol covers trade and banking relations, transportation, steel mill collaboration, installation of power stations, housing building plants as well as technical and industrial cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union.

It was also stated that top-ranking economic delegations of the two countries would meet every six months to review the execution of the protocol's clauses.

Tehran Commentary on Situation in Persian Gulf

LD161328 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1111 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Political review entitled "The Kuwaiti Government's Request to United States and USSR To Protect Shipping in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] The spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry said the Islamic Republic has declared clearly time and time again that only Persian Gulf countries have the right to interfere in matters relating to the Persian Gulf, and they alone can make decisions about shipping in this important waterway.

These remarks were made yesterday following news of the Soviet Union renting three oil tankers to the Kuwaiti Government for 3 years. The official Soviet Government spokesman said that according to the agreement — which is renewable after 3 years — Soviet military ships will protect the tankers.

Meanwhile, informed sources said that the remarks made by the Soviet official confirm other reports about Kuwait asking the United States and USSR to protect its oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. Thus far, the Kuwaiti Government was one of the few countries in the GCC which was against any form of foreign military presence for maintaining security in the Persian Gulf. But recent developments on the war fronts and the military defeats suffered by the Iraqi regime, on the one hand, and extensive propaganda by the U.S. Government on the other, have forced this small emirate to ask the two superpowers for protection against imaginary attacks that are made up by propaganda.

In the meantime, the U.S. Government which — following its defeat and disgrace resulting from the incident of trying to establishing relations with Iran — feels it is necessary to parade its total support for the regional puppet governmnents, has raised a big hue and cry about Iran's installation of a number of missile units at the mouth of the Persian Gulf. But unfortunately, the regional governments that are closing their eyes to a number of simple military issues have given the superpowers a better opportunity. [as heard]

These military issues are, first, that these missile units had been installed in the Strait of Hormuz a few months ago, and U.S. propaganda during the past month shows that the installation of the missiles had not been all that important to it, and that it started its poison propaganda for its own political ends. Second, if Iran's aim in the matter is to attack the ships sailing through the strait, this could be done with a few long-range cannons and other assorted weapons. Third, as stated by an informed military source, Iran's aim in installing a number of missile units at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz is not to allow a number of Iraqi frigates recently purchased from Italy to pass through.

In addition to these reasons, the installation of the missiles — some months ago, at that — has not disturbed the balance in the Persian Gulf. The extensive propaganda by East and West shows that their aim is solely to protect their puppets, and to that aim they are prepared to make mountains out of molehills and everything out of nothing. But the Soviet Union — which is one of the main supporters of the aggressor Iraqi regime and one of its main arms suppliers — has constantly tried to infiltrate the Persian Gulf and establish relations with most Persian Gulf countries, while the Iraqi regime is seriously threatened by overthrow and efforts are being made to find a successor for Saddam.

The Soviet Government is trying to expand its relations with any Arab regime while opening diplomatic doors to Israel. The United States, too, is trying a show of strength by extending its military presence in the Persian Gulf in order to regain its lost face. By asking the East and West [for protection], the Kuwaiti Government will turn the Persian Gulf into a contest arena for superpowers, which will benefit no one but the superpowers themselves.

The only fair course of action for the Kuwaiti Government, and other governments that have been worried about their future because of their support for Saddam, is for them to cease their political, economic, and military support to the Iraqi regime and let justice take its natural course. Otherwise, such actions will merely open new doors and bring nothing but shame to the perpetrators on the morning after Iraq's final defeat and Saddam's downfall.

Rafiqdust Sees Battalions Off to Warfronts

NC170731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] The dispatch of corps from the Imam of the Ages -- may God hasten his noble return -- is continuing. Three battalions of combat forces left for the fronts from Shahr-e Kord yesterday. We have a report on this dispatch which we now invite you to listen to:

[Begin recording] On the auspicious occasion of the birthday of the imam of the ages -- may God hasten his noble return -- and

in accordance with the entire Islamic nation's determination to carry out their canonical duty by going to the fronts, three combat battalions from the citis, districts, and villages of Chahar Mahal va Bakhtiari, codenamed the Imam of the Ages Corps, left for the battlefronts from Shahr-e Kord. They were seen of by Brother Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, who delivered a speech to mark the occasion.

In his address, the minister of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps stated: The nations of the world have renewed hope stemming from the heroism of the combatants of Islam. This has made them even more decisive in their struggle against the enemies of Islam. He added: As the imam has stated, Saddam is now in a frenzied state and all his mentors have severed their relations with him. This moving corpse should not be given any opportunity. The Iraqi Army has no power left today. We must go to the fronts and achieve the final victory, he affirmed. This is the Central News Unit correspondent reporting from Shahr-e Kord. [end recording]

More Battalions Depart

NC160921 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the dispatch of volunteer combatants of Islam to the fronts is continuing. A special convoy from the Imam of the Ages of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps of Karaj left for the fronts yesterday. The convoy consisted of three Basij battalions and trained forces from (Sabok Bolagh), Shahriar, Robat Karim, Taleghan, [name indistinct], (?Eshtehard and Astara).

The same report notes that two battalions of combat, specialized, and training forces, codenamed the Imam of the Ages Corps, also left for the fronts from Urumiyeh yesterday. The report adds that two battalions of combat and specialized forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps mobilization forces from Bandar-e 'Abbas, Minab, Bandar-e Lengeh, Qeshm, Hormuz Islands, and [name indistinct] district left for the fronts yesterday.

A Central News Unit correspondent reports from Yazd Province that three battalions of combat and specialized forces left yesterday to assist the combatants of Islam already at the fronts. All the reports assert that the combatants of Islam were warmly seen off by residents of their towns.

Iraqi Claim of Chemical Weapons Use Denied

LD171009 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said here Friday the Iraqi claim that Iran had used chemical weapons was aimed at covering up Iraq's extensive chemical attacks on Iranian forces in the southern and western fronts recently.

The WIH spokesman told IRNA that although Iran is quite able to retaliate these enemy measures its response would not be what the Iraqi regime has claimed. He said that the climatic and geographical conditions in the southern fronts are such that Iraqi forces are exposed to three different currents of air and therefore each time Iraq deploys chemical weapons its own forces are affected.

The spokesman again called on international circles to take measures to force Iraqi to stop its use of chemical weapons.

SAIRI Statement on Operations Against Iraqi Forces

LD161443 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, a statement issued by the military wing of the Islamic 'Amal Organization, affiliated to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] says: In a number of successful raids on 25, 26, 29, and 31 March, in several different Iraqi cities, Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries killed a group of military and security forces of the Zionist-Ba'thist regime ruling over that country.

According to this report, in one of these operations on dirt road leading to (Hur al-'Uwaynah) in Al-'Amarah Province, a group of Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries clashed with a patrol group of the popular army entrusted with the task of chasing and capturing young Iraqi dissidents and deserters from the warfronts, who have sought refuge in the southern parts of the country, and either killed or wounded a number of them.

In an attack on a car carrying five organizational heads of the Iraqi Ba'th party in Dhi Qar Province on 26 March, the same group of Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries killed all the passengers in the vehicle, among whom were Jabbar Rashid and Muhammad Qati 'Abdi, two high ranking organizational officials of the Ba'th Party in Nasiriyah.

Another group of Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries, aiming their fire at the car of 'Abdullah Asad, party official responsible for the 14th district of Al-Thawrah township in Baghdad, and those accompanying him on 29 March, succeeded in killing all of them. Those killed were responsible for pursuing and capturing Muslim revolutionary youths from the township of Al-Thawrah.

The report also says that on 31 March an Iraqi Muslim revolutionary threw a hand grenade into a group of high-ranking officers of the Zionist regime ruling in Iraq, responsible for field executions. During this operation, which took place in the Al-Mawqif al-Muwahhid terminal square in Al-'Amarah Province, the Muslim revolutionary was shot dead by the forces guarding the Ba'thist officers.

Communique No 2,808 Notes Iraqi Chemical Bombing

LD161715 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 16, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran pounded Iraqi positions and strongholds in a region overlooking the Sar Dasht operational theater, western fronts, last Tuesday and advanced seven kms. inside Iraq. Strategic heights Nos. 1090, 973, 988, 1002 and 1058, were liberated during the assault.

Announcing the above here Thursday, Joint Staff Communique No. 2808 added that the Iranian navy intercepted two commercial vessels in the Hormuz Strait, but allowed them to continue voyage since no suspicious cargo turned up on board.

Artillery fire of the Muslim forces of Iran on Iraqi engineering vehicle columns in Qasr-e Shirin region halted their activities, destroying an enemy vehicle and several bunkers, and inflicting some casualties on enemy troops. Movements of Iraqi motorised columns in Helaleh and Mirabad in the Sardasht region were also halted.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in Zobeydah, Faqqeh, Pich-e Angizeh and Sharhani were checked by the Iranian air-defence units. Iraqi tanks and logistical vehicle columns in Hoseyniyeh and Nahr 'Anbar region were also set afire.

About eight enemy gun emplacements were demolished and a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded when their positions came under fire by Iranian gendarmerie forces in the areas of their mission.

According to the communique, the Ba'thist regime chemically bombed Kuh-e Nuri region of the Sardasht operational theater at 15:30 GMT Wednesday.